

### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449 form.

The listed documents were cited in the parent of the present divisional application, Application No. 09/805,883, and might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given there. The Examiner is respectfully directed to the files of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for review of those documents. (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d) and MPEP § 609.)

Note that U.S. Patent No. 6,609,162 and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0030766 were cited as co-pending applications during prosecution of the parent of the present divisional application, but have since been published (in view of the current practice of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for applications filed after June 30, 2003, copies of these two patent publications are not enclosed).

The Examiner is requested to indicate that the listed documents have been considered by initialing the appropriate portions of the PTO-1449 form and returning a copy of same to Applicants' attorneys of record.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. applications:


| <u>APPLICATION NO.</u> | <u>FILING DATE</u> | <u>TC/ART UNIT</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 09/274,334             | March 23, 1999     | 2626               |
| 09/363,025             | July 29, 1999      | 2621               |

The Examiner is respectfully directed to the files of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for review of those documents. (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d) and MPEP § 609.)

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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|   |  |                        |                |   |            |  |                                       |
|---|--|------------------------|----------------|---|------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| FORM PTO 1449 (modified)<br><br>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE<br><br>LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)<br>(Use several sheets if necessary) |  |                        |                | ATTY DOCKET NO.<br><b>00862.022146.1</b>    |            | APPLICATION NO.<br><b>Div. of 09/805,883</b> |                                       |
|   |  |                        |                | APPLICANT<br><b>KATSUHIKO HARA ET AL.</b>   |            |  |                                       |
|   |  |                        |                | FILING DATE<br><b>Concurr ntly Her with</b> |            | GROUP<br><b>2182</b>                         |                                       |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS   |  |                        |                |   |            |  |                                       |
| *EXAMINER<br>INITIAL  |  | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER     | DATE           | NAME  | CLASS      | SUBCLASS                                     | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROPRIATE         |
|   |  | <b>2001/0030766 A1</b> | <b>10/2001</b> | <b>Yamamoto</b>                             | <b>358</b> | <b>1.15</b>                                  |                                       |
|   |  | <b>6,609,162 B1</b>    | <b>08/2003</b> | <b>Shimizu et al.</b>                       | <b>710</b> | <b>15</b>                                    |                                       |
|   |  | <b>5,371,837</b>       | <b>12/1994</b> | <b>Kimber et al.</b>                        | <b>358</b> | <b>1.15</b>                                  |                                       |
|   |  | <b>5,467,434</b>       | <b>11/1995</b> | <b>Hower et al.</b>                         | <b>358</b> | <b>1.15</b>                                  |                                       |
|   |  | <b>5,564,109</b>       | <b>10/1996</b> | <b>Snyder et al.</b>                        | <b>710</b> | <b>8</b>                                     |                                       |
|   |  | <b>5,692,111</b>       | <b>11/1997</b> | <b>Marbry et al.</b>                        | <b>358</b> | <b>1.15</b>                                  |                                       |
|   |  | <b>6,347,294</b>       | <b>02/2002</b> | <b>Booker et al.</b>                        | <b>703</b> | <b>28</b>                                    |                                       |
|   |  | <b>6,349,304</b>       | <b>02/2002</b> | <b>Boldt et al.</b>                         | <b>707</b> | <b>102</b>                                   |                                       |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS  |  |                        |                |   |            |  |                                       |
|   |  | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER     | DATE           | COUNTRY                                     | CLASS      | SUBCLASS                                     | TRANSLATION<br>YES/NO/<br>OR ABSTRACT |
|   |  |                        |                |   |            |  |                                       |
|   |  |                        |                |   |            |  |                                       |
|   |  |                        |                |   |            |  |                                       |
|   |  |                        |                |   |            |  |                                       |
|   |  |                        |                |   |            |  |                                       |
| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)  |  |                        |                |   |            |  |                                       |
|   |  |                        |                |   |            |  |                                       |
|   |  |                        |                |   |            |  |                                       |
|   |  |                        |                |   |            |  |                                       |
| EXAMINER  |  |                        |                | DATE CONSIDERED                             |            |  |                                       |

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.